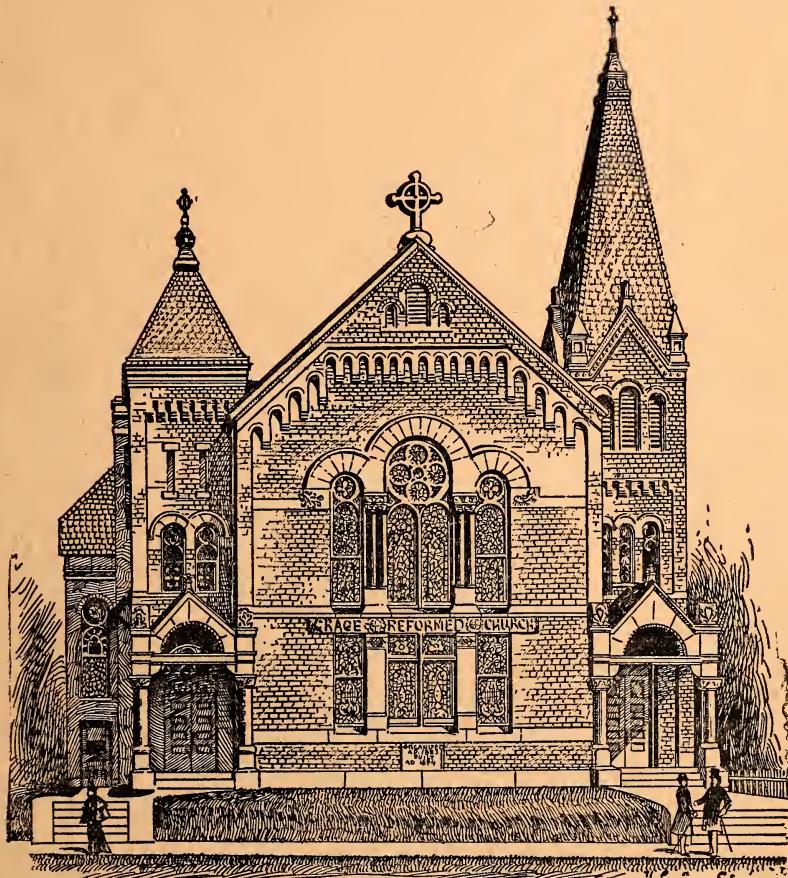


AUGUST, 1897.

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Grace Church Visitor.



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Bible School, 9:30 A. M.
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Y. P. S. C. E., 6:45 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday), 7:30 P. M.

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Grace Church Visitor.

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Christian Nurture and Fellowship,
Aggressive Church Work and Applied Christianity.*

VOL. IX.

AUGUST, 1897.

No. 5.

Our fall communion service will be held the latter part of October.

Begin in time to lay up something for the offering on Congregational day, October 3.

The financial secretary will send out the quarterly statements about October 1.

The Childrens Festival Friday evening, October 1st. Tickets good for admittance and ice cream and cake ten cents.

There should be a large number of accessions to the church at our October communion. We have already a number of applicants for membership.

The annual meeting of our synod will be held at Canton, Ohio, commencing Wednesday evening, October 6th. If at all possible the pastor hopes to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Henry Kessler will give an ice cream social at her home, 359 East Lewis street, Thursday afternoon and evening, September 30th. Her object is to enlarge her fund which she has been earning with her nickel. The members and friends of the church are all invited.

THE CHILDREN'S AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

We have been wanting to arrange for a children's social and festival for some time, but owing to the hot weather and some other reasons, the matter was deferred until some time later. The date has now been fixed—Friday evening, October 1st. It is understood that this is to be a festival, for the children and young people especially. The object is to have a pleasant evening for the scholars of the Sabbath school, their parents and friends. There will be an entertainment by the children and young people, consisting of recitations, singing and some other things, which will make the evening pleasant and interesting for all. There will be ice cream, flower and candy booths. The admittance will be ten cents, and the tickets will be good for one dish of ice cream and cake. Any child selling ten tickets will receive one free ticket. We expect that every scholar in the Sabbath school will be interested in this festival, sell all the tickets possible, and do every thing possible to make it a success. It is to be an autumn festival, the decorations will be in autumn flowers and leaves, &c.

Committees have been appointed

from the different classes to solicit, and wait on the tables as follows:

Committee to solicit cakes—Addie Drivelbiss, Lottie Bitner, Bessie Tapp, Nellie Rudisil, Irwin Kessler, Grace Smith, Mrs. Wells, Frank Thompson, Frank Hills, Albert Wertman, Lydia Niedheimer, Estella Bottger.

For the above committee one scholar was selected from each class.

Committees to wait on tables—Lucy Bercot, Ray Prince, Flora Schwartz, Alda Fredrick, Grace Wertman, Grace Lennergan, Frankie Fry, May Wicks, Fred Tapp, Clifton Welkening, John Niehoff, Willie Stockenan, John Knight, Willie Walters, Daisy Walters, Gertie Thompson.

Candy booth—Josephine Zartman, Estella Hyman, Lillie Close, Neta Heyman, Nellie Wycoff, Anna Scheffler.

Kitchen committee—Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Lonergan, Lyda Doermer, Lillie Walters, Lulu Bitner, Charles Knight, Willie Rudisil.

Decoration and reception committee—teachers and officers of the Sabbath school.

Entertainment committee—Miss Nellie French, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. C. H. Gumpper, Mrs. Rosington, A. K. Zartman, Bertha Cour.

Cashier—Walter Close. Assistant—Lizzie Rudisil.

CONGREGATIONAL DAY.

The first Sunday in October the church will observe as Congregational day. It will be the Annual Autumn Rally Day. It is hoped that every member of the church will be at the services on this day. A special effort will be made to have every one out. The consistory has arranged to take up a special offering on this day to be applied on the interest of our church

loan. We want to raise about seventy or seventy-five dollars for this purpose. To raise this amount we will need some five dollar offerings, some three and two dollar offerings, and then a number of one dollar offerings, and halves and quarters. There should be no difficulty in raising seventy or eighty dollars. So far the ladies' society, the Sabbath school, and Young People's society have been raising the interest on the loan and now it will not be more than right that for once the whole church should give a helping hand. Begin at once to lay up something for this offering, and if you should not be able to come to the services on Congregational day, send in your offering with some other member of the church, but by all means come to the services yourself unless detained on account of sickness.

NICKELS EARNING DOLLARS.

About twenty-five of the ladies of the church now have nickels, and they have been very busy in putting them out to usury. From recent reports we have learned that many of these nickels have been rapidly growing into dollars, and the women are still very busy in trying to multiply the amounts they have already realized. At the last meeting of the Women's society it was decided to put off the day when these nickles shall be called in until the latter part of October. While these twenty-five women of the church are busy with their nickels earning money for the church, there are many more women who are not engaged in this enterprise. We feel certain, however, that when the day will come for these twenty-five women to turn over their money into the treasury of the Women's society, the remaining wo-

men of the church will each bring some offering also. The plan of earning dollars for the society has always been a good one. Let it be understood that the ladies who have not taken nickels shall each earn a dollar or more for the church by the time the nickels are called in. Perhaps the Ladies' Society may take some action in this direction. We feel that this would only be right, for all should have the privilege of doing something in this enterprise.

RECRUITS FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The time is now at hand as the summer months are about passed, to do some active recruiting for the Sabbath school and church. We are glad that our Sabbath school has kept up so well all summer, but there are some scholars that may need some looking after to get them back again into their places in the Sabbath school, and there are scores of children that are not in the habit of going to Sabbath school at all. These should be gathered into the schools, and our school has its measure of responsibility in caring for these children. Perhaps one of the best ways of getting these neglected children into the Sabbath school, is to interest the children already in the school in their welfare. Children can do very effectual work with children, and can oftentimes prevail upon their associates to come into the school, when the efforts of teachers, pastors and parents will fail. Teachers, let us unite our efforts in making missionaries out of the children in our school, and see what we can accomplish in further increasing the number of our scholars, and thus doing work for the Lord. Our children

have been very helpful in bringing in new scholars in the past; let us encourage them and stimulate them to still grater efforts in this direction. And then while the children work let teachers, parents and all work. It seems to us that the enrollment of our school might very easily be doubled if the proper effort was made.

Mr. James Vining has been ailing all summer, but we have been glad to see him coming out to our services right along, and we are hoping that soon he will get right well again.

Mrs. Rev. Schaaf, now lives on Rivermet avenue in Lakeside. She has a very nice home where she resides and well located.

Mrs. Drukenbrod and daughter Churl, recently visited Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Paulus at Columbia City. They had a very pleasant time and report that Mr. and Mrs. Paulus are both in the best of health and hope to spend a Sabbath at Fort Wayne soon.

The Ministerial association of the city had its first meeting for the year on a recent Monday morning. The meetings are held on each alternate Monday at 10 a. m., and for the present will be held at the Plymouth Congregational church. Nearly all the pastors of the English protestant churches belong to the association. The meetings are well attended, and afford a great opportunity for promoting ministerial fellowship and for the exchange of thought and plans for work. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: President, Rev. A. K. Zartman; vice president, Rev. R. W. Ballenger; secretary and treasurer, Rev. C. C. Cissel.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

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Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Archer are spending a few weeks in Dakota with friends.

Do not forget the Annual Congregational day, Sunday, October 3. Every member of the church is expected at this service.

Tuesday afternoon and evening, September 28th, Mrs. James Lonergan will have a coffee. Mrs. Lonergan's number is 15 Erie street. All the members of the church are invited to this coffee.

Ever child selling ten tickets for the Children's Autumn festival, Friday evening, October 1st, will receive one free ticket. By this plan every child in the Sabbath school can have a free admittance and ice cream and cake.

Sunday evening of Congregational Day, October 3rd, we will have a special service for strangers. Every member of the church will be expected

to bring some one to the service who is not a member of the church. The pastor will have a sermon appropriate for the occasion.

L. W. Hills has gone to Petoskey for relief from hay fever and asthma. He writes that he is feeling quite well, but will not return until the latter part of September. We miss him very greatly at our church services, prayer meetings and Sabbath school, and shall all be glad when he comes back.

Mrs. Zartman has been with her parents at Canton, Ohio, for the grater part of the month past. Her mother has been very ill, but has again regained some strength and is resting more comfortably. Mrs. Zartman has returned home, but will only remain for a week or two, when she will again go back to Canton.

We are sorry that we are so late with our August issue of the Visitor. We intentionally delayed the issue until the last of the month, and then we were unexpectedly called to Canton, Ohio, and were necessitated to postpone the issue until a still later date.

Life is not the mere living. It is worship—it is the surrender of the soul to God, and the power to see the face of God; and it is service—it is to feel that when we die, whether praised or blamed, whether appreciated or misinterpreted, whether honored or ignored, whether wealthy or destitute—we have done something to make the world we came to better and happier—we have tried to cast upon the waters some seeds which, long after we are dead, may still bring forth their flowers of Paradise. The seed dies, but the harvest lives. Sacrifice is always fruitful, and there is nothing fruitful else. . . Out of the suffering comes the serious mind; out of the salvation, the grateful heart; out of the endurance, the fortitude; out of the deliverance, the faith.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

One of the problems that perplexes the pastors of to-day is the irregular attendance of church members upon the services of their own churches. During the past year while out of the city one Sabbath, the pastor attended services at a church where there is an enrollment of nearly a thousand members. The morning was a little unfavorable for the services, but inasmuch as the membership was so large, and one of the leading ministers of the church and a college president, was to preach, we expected to find the church crowded to its utmost capacity at this service. But we were disappointed in our expectation. The auditorium of this church, we are told, has a seating capacity not exceeding five hundred, and it is doubtful whether one half of the seats were occupied at this particular service. It is safe to say that not over three hundred were in attendance. This is a small proportion of the one thousand membership of that church. When the pastor of the church arose to introduce the speaker for the morning, he expressed his disappointment in having such a small attendance at the services. He said it was likely owing to the weather. We could fully appreciate the feeling and disappointment of this pastor. It is a sore and distressing experience and disappointment that pastors have to pass through too often. The pastor has a right to expect a full attendance of his membership at every service, unless the weather is too inclement. There is nothing that disappoints and distresses the heart of a devoted pastor so much as when through sheer indifference, the members of the church absent themselves from the services of the sanctuary. First of all, such a small attendance of the church mem-

bers upon the services of the church, has its bad effect upon the unconverted. By special efforts, and urgent invitations, they are now and then prevailed upon to come to the church services. But what are their impressions and conclusions, when they find such a small proportion of the regular membership of the church at the service? They can only conclude that either the members have no interest in the welfare of their own church, and have no love for the Lord and for the service of His house, or that the Christian religion is not what it is represented to be. Strangers moreover are quick to come to the conclusion that if the members of a church are not interested sufficiently in their own church to attend its services, then why should they attend, or why should they identify themselves with such a church. But who feels the effect of all these things the most? The careless and disinterested church members who stay away from the services, except upon very special occasions? No, they are the least concerned about the welfare of their church and about the strangers who come to the services. The faithful pastor, who is laboring hard to build up the church, feels the effects most of all. It is any wonder that pastors become disheartened and give up their work in despair, when his own members are so indifferent, and so willfully tie up the pastor's hands, and frustrate his efforts to save souls, and build up the church. One of the most helpful things a church can do to build up the membership of congregation, is to be regular in their attendance upon the services of their church. This indicates an interest on their part and encourages friends and strangers to attend, and will soon secure their mem-

bership for the church.

Then imagine the disappointment of a pastor who has labored hard for days in preparation for a service, and then coming before the congregation with about a third of its membership present to be benefited by the sermon and worship of the hour. Can any church member believe that such treatment toward a pastor is at all Christian, and is treating him as they would wish to be treated? And will such treatment encourage the heart of the pastor and enable him to be at his very best in the pulpit and in his work out of pulpit? Every pastor expects to see the members of the church at every service, and has a right to expect them. When they are not in attendance he cannot help but feel the disappointment, and the absence of every member, just by so much weakens the pastors power for the service, as well also as the efficiency of the whole service.

Then it must be remembered too, that the members who are absent from the services will always suffer a great personal injury themselves. They have wronged their church and the pastor, by their absence, but they have deprived themselves of the benefits and blessings of the service in the Lord's house. Verily they shall have their reward. Be sure their sins shall find them out. Whatsoever a man seweth that shall he also reap. Indifference begets indifference. Remain away from church one Sabbath and it is an easier thing to remain away the next Sabbath. One sin is the parent of another. Let those who for trivial reasons remain away from the church services, stop to think what their influence will be upon others. This indifference will seed the hearts of others with the same sin. What may

parents expect who set such examples of indifference, before their children. Be sure your sins will find you out.

We have scarcely time or space to say anything of the frivolous excuses that these church members make for their irregularity in attendance upon Divine services. Some say they are too poor. And they are just one of the classes that need the comfort and help of the service of the Lord's house. Some are sick. But it seems a strange thing that many of these people are always sick on the Sabbath, and are well the other six days of the week, and are often well enough on the Sabbath to be out to the parks, or off on an excursion. Now it is too hot, too cold, too rainy or too snowy. But when is it too hot, too cold, too rainy or too snowy for business or for pleasure. With some church members it may perhaps simply be a matter of thoughtlessness that they are so irregular in their attendance upon Divine services. But thoughtlessness will not answer as an excuse in the sight of the Lord. Thoughtlessness is too often only the devils trap by which he ensnares the unwary. Others are irregular in their attendance upon Divine service, through indifference. This is another of the devil's traps. Some professed Christians have a preference of spending the Sabbath almost anywhere else than in the service of the sanctuary. This is all wrong and is the source of untold injury to the church and to these people themselves.

Now then we want to put in a plea in behalf of our own church, and for a better attendance upon our own services. If you, dear brother or sister, have been indifferent and thoughtless, with reference to your attendance upon the services of the sanctuary,

we kindly ask you to stop and think. Ask yourself this question, have I been doing right in these things? Have I been doing my whole duty toward my church and my master? Ask the Lord to help to know your full duty, and your privileges and to enable you to know your opportunities to encourage your pastor, your fellow Christians, and what you can do to build up the church of which you have the privilege of being a member. Resolve for once that henceforth your pew in the sanctuary will never be vacant again at any service, unless prevented by sickness or death.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL PICNIC AT COLLINGSWOOD.

In company with Mr. and Mrs. George Hessard and a bus load of our young people, the pastor attended a Sabbath school picnic on a recent Saturday at Collingswood, some twelve miles north of the city. The party left the church in the morning at 7:45, and arrived at the picnic grounds at about 11 o'clock. It was a long ride, but we all enjoyed the trip going and coming. The picnic was given under the direction of the Salem's Reformed church, near Collingswood. There were ten Sabbath schools present and fully a thousand people were in attendance. The grove was well located and beautiful, and the arrangements were complete in every particular. The people of the Salem's Reformed church have always made a success of their picnics. Miss Ida Garman, the superintendent of the Sabbath school, deserves much credit for the arrangement of the program, and the manner in which she conducted the exercises of the day. We have been very much gratified to see the interest the young people of this church take in their Sabbath school

and general work of the church. They have been keeping alive the Christian Endeavor society and the Sabbath school, and are the promise of the church. It was a very great pleasure for us to be at this picnic, to enjoy the services and to meet so many old friends and acquaintances. An hour in the forenoon and two hours in the afternoon were devoted to singing, recitations and addresses. At intervals the Huntertown band furnished very excellent music. The opening address was made by Hon. James M. Robinson and was well received by the people. In the afternoon addresses were made by Rev. Murray, of Huntertown, and by the pastor. For two hours at noon there was an intermission for dinner and a general good time, and every person made good use of the two hours. We feel that it is right that these picnics should be encouraged. It gives the people in the country a day for rest, and sociability, and for educational and spiritual advancement. We were very glad indeed to enjoy this day with these people and talk to them, and we feel confident that the day will long be remembered by all who were present. We came back to the city in the evening at about 9 o'clock, safe and happy, somewhat tired out, but all the better prepared for a good night's sleep, and for the work of the following Sabbath.

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Sept. 19—Loosing and Finding Life.
John 12, 1-8; 20-26—Mrs. Zartman.

Sept. 26—Eternity. John 5, 17-29.
Frank Hills.

Oct. 3—How to Make God's Will
Our Will and the Result. Phil. 2, 1-13.
Frank Bercot.

The readings for the Bible School beginning with September 19th will be in the book of Exodus, commencing with the first chapter, reading one chapter each day.

The social and supper given at the church by the women of the second section, was not as well attended as it might and should have been. It was perhaps somewhat early in the season for church suppers, and socials. The supper was first-class, and those present had a pleasant social time.

REV. FREDRICK W. FARRAR, D. D.

Anything which makes religion a second object makes religion no object. God will put up with a great many things in the human heart, but there is one thing He will not put up with in it—a second place.

Cheered by the presence of God, I will do at each moment, without anxiety, according to the strength which he shall give me, the work that his providence assigns me. I will leave the rest without concern; it is not my affair. I ought to consider the duty to which I am called each day as the work that God has given me to do, and to apply myself to it in a manner worthy of his glory, that is to say, with exactness and in peace. I must neglect nothing; I must be violent about nothing. FENELON.

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